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Gage, Nicholas
Kennedy, John
Cosa Nostra Mafia
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Sinatra, Frank
Castro, Fidel
Roselli, John
Giancana, Sam
CIA-04 Maheu, Robert
Campbell, Judith
Kennedy, Robert
CIA 4-01 Assassination
CIA 855c
(originder Gage)

Link of Kennedy Friend To Mafia Is Still a Puzzle

By NICHOLAS GAGE

The disclosure last December that President Kennedy and two major Mafia figures maintained close friendships with the same woman — Judith Campbell — has puzzled many private citizens, disturbed some law enforcement officials and aroused extensive speculation in and out of Government.

The speculation has been stimulated because the two

First of three articles.

Mafia figures, John Roselli and Sam Giancana, maintained the relationships with Mrs. Campbell at the very time she said she was having an affair with the President. And both men had been involved in the Central Intelligence Agency's abortive plots to assassinate Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba.

But the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which investigated the C.I.A. plots, referred only briefly to Mrs. Campbell's relationships, devoting slightly more than a page to them in its 349-page report last December. The report did not identify Mrs. Campbell (now Mrs. Judith Exner) by name or sex, and left a number of questions unanswered.

Among them were whether Mrs. Campbell used her relationship with Mr. Kennedy to benefit the Mafia, and whether the President learned as a result of the Campbell friendship that the C.I.A. was working with the Mafia on a plot to kill Mr. Castro.

Interviews and Findings

During the last two months, The New York Times, in interviews with the current and former Justice Department officials, participants in the C.I.A. plots and underworld figures, has examined these questions and found the following:

¶Several recommendations were made within the Justice Department in 1962 for a thorough investigation of Mrs. Campbell's Mafia ties, but no inquiry was ever conducted. When high Justice officials learned about her friendship with President Kennedy in early 1962, they looked upon it as a "domestic matter," as one of them put it, and merly passed information on her to the White House.

¶Sam Giancana—who was slain last June — and John Roselli boasted to fellow gangsters about sharing the affections of a woman who was seeing the President, but they do not appear to have benefited further from their knowledge of Mrs. Campbell's friendship with Mr. Kennedy.

¶While the Senate committee found no evidence that President Kennedy knew about the C.I.A.-Mafia plots to kill Mr. Castro, the possibility appears high to some former Justice officials that Robert F. Kennedy, then the Attorney General, told his brother about the plots in view of what he learned about the relationships of Mr. Giancana, Mr. Roselli and Mrs. Campbell in 1962 and early 1963.

¶When the Senate committee investigated Mrs. Campbell's friendships, not only did the committee not call Frank Sinatra, who introduced Mrs. Campbell both to President Kennedy and to Mr. Giancana, but other key individuals were merely interviewed rather than questioned under oath, even though a deeper inquiry might have produced information affecting the committee's conclusion that President Kennedy did not know about the C.I.A.-Mafia plots against Mr. Castro.

Staying Out of Sight

A spokesman for th
mittee, Spencer Davis, s
the panel's mandate wa
termine whether Mrs.
bell was involved in an
gence operation and
conduct a broad inves
of her Mafia ties.

"We found that she
engaged in intelligen
that was that," he said

A close friend of t
Mafia figures said tha
Campbell's initial conta
the Mafia was with Mr.
who was born in Italy,
grated to Boston as a
joined the Mafia in
and later became invo
labor racketeering in L
geles.

Mr. Roselli, who has been staying out of sight since Mr. Giancana was slain last year, has told friends that he first met Mrs. Campbell in 1951—she was then Judith Immoor—when she was 17 years old and "hanging around the studios" in Hollywood. Mr. Roselli, who had served three years in Federal prison for extorting money from the studios, was then associated with an independent production company. Miss Immoor had ambitions of becoming an actress.

Mr. Roselli stopped seeing her when she married William Campbell, an actor, a short time later, according to the friend of the two Mafia leaders.

The couple was divorced in 1958, and a year later she began to date Mr. Sinatra, she said in the outline for a book she plans to write. Mrs. Campbell said that she ended her affair with the singer because their tastes in sex differed, but continued to travel with the Sinatra crowd.

In reply to this assertion, Mr. Sinatra issued this statement: "Hell hath no fury like a hustler with a literary agent."

Mrs. Campbell said in the outline that Mr. Sinatra introduced her to John F. Kennedy on Feb. 7, 1960, in Las Vegas, Nev., and they made plans to meet in early March in New York, where they began to have an affair.

and Mr. Roselli made no exception with Mrs. Campbell, according to the close friend of both men.

His contention is supported by participants in the plots, including Robert Maheu, who has acknowledged bringing together the Mafia and the C.I.A. Mrs. Campbell said in her book outline that she had "no knowledge of C.I.A. involvement with the Mafia."

The close friend of Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli said that, at that time, Mrs. Campbell was one of about 20 women, some of them well-known actresses, who were in the Sinatra crowd and were introduced to the entertainer's friends in public life and in the underworld.

"The difference with Judy was that she was pushy and reckless," the friend said. "She'd go to Johnny's place and call everyone she knew from his phone, or she'd call Sam at his home and at the Armory Lounge in Chicago, where he hung out. So the Feds picked up her tracks.

"The other girls were careful. They didn't call Sam or Johnny because they knew their phones were tapped. And they didn't call the White House, for God's sake!"

The Federal Bureau of Investigation first picked up Judith Campbell through electronic surveillance of Mr. Roselli in early 1961, according to Justice Department sources.

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